

June 2018

Observing our Desert Skies
since 1954



www.tucsonastronomy.org

TUCSON AMATEUR ASTRONOMY ASSOCIATION

Monthly Events Bulletin

June 1st General Meeting

Steward Observatory Lecture Hall, Room N210, UA Campus, 933 N Cherry Ave.

Introductory Presentation 6:30pm

***Variable Stars, the
AAVSO and the
Astronomical League***
*presented by
Douglas Smith*

Douglas Smith will present a history of Variable Star observing and discoveries, the importance of this work. A description of what a variable star is and the process that causes the variability. He will discuss the AAVSO and their purpose and look at their website. He will also discuss the Astronomical League's three observing programs for variable stars.

Invited Lecture 7:30pm

***Train Wrecks Across
Time: A History of Galaxy
Mergers***
*presented by
Barry Rothberg, Ph.D.
Large Binocular Telescope
Observatory*

The collision and merging of galaxies is one of the most violent events in the Universe. Galaxy mergers are far from rare, and are responsible for reshaping and creating galaxies, forming millions of new stars, enriching and forging new elements, and birthing and fueling the most powerful and destructive engines in the known Universe. But galaxy mergers have not only reshaped the Universe over the last 13 billion years, but have served as a means of reshaping humanity's understanding of astronomy and physics. In this presentation, we will start on a journey beginning several centuries earlier, and see how galactic train wrecks have helped further the development of astronomical optics, altered and remade our basic understanding of physics, and inspired astronomers to see how the Universe is both vast and ever expanding. We will also see how galaxy mergers will impact our own future. Our Milky Way galaxy and one of our galactic neighbors, the Andromeda galaxy, are hurtling towards each other, destined to collide and eventually merge. Our understanding how galaxy mergers occur and their outcome will serve as a means of seeing our own inevitable future.

Inside this Bulletin

TIMPA Star Party
Jun 9 & 15

AFSIG Meeting
Jun 14

Grand Canyon Star Party
Jun 9 – 16

CAC Star Party
Jun 15 & 16

Ladies Night Out
Jun 21

TAAA Election Results

The election for the TAAA Board of Directors and NVRC was held at the general meeting. The results are as follows:

Board of Directors (BoD)

President:	Mae Smith
Vice President:	John Mead
Secretary:	Chuck Hendricks
Treasurer:	Mike McDowell
Members-at-Large:	Ed Foley
	Doug Smith
	Bill Wheeler

Nomination and Volunteer Resource Committee (NVRC):

2 Year Term	Kenneth Bertschy
2 Year Term	Dale Nichols
1 Year Term	Dave Rossetter

The ballot initiative to change the TAAA bylaws so that vacancies on the NVRC can be filled also passed.

STARIZONA
ADVENTURES IN ASTRONOMY AND NATURE

5757 N. Oracle Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85704

www.starizona.com
292-5010

This Month in Brief

Usual set-up time for most group and public events is 30 minutes before the start time stated here.

Key:	TAAA Members Only	For Organization	Public Events
General Meeting Mae Smith	Jun 1 (Fri) Steward Obs. Rm N210 933 N Cherry Ave		6:30 PM
TIMPA Star Party Dennis McMacken	Jun 9 (Sat) TIMPA 3250 N Reservation Rd		Sunset
AFSIG Meeting Connor Justice	Jun 14 (Thu) USGS Bldg Room 253 520 N Park Ave		6:30 PM
Elfrida Library Elfrida Arizona Jim Knoll	Jun 15 (Fri) Elfrida Library 10552 N HY 191		7:30 PM
TIMPA Star Party Dennis McMacken	Jun 15 (Fri) TIMPA 3250 N Reservation Rd		Sunset
CAC Star Party John Kalas	Jun 15/16 (Fri/Sat) Chiricahua Astronomy Com- plex		Sunset
Ladies Night Out Susan O'Connor	Jun 21 (Thu) Jun Dynasty 2933 E Grant Rd		6:30 PM
Outreach Star Party NE Tucson Jim Knoll	Jun 29 (Fri) Whitetail Campground MP 21.5 Mt Lemmon Hwy		8:00 PM
Outreach Star Party SE Tucson Jim Knoll	Jun 30 (Sat) Sycamore Canyon Park 17362 S Rustling Leaf Tr		8:00 PM
Outreach Star Party SE Tucson Jim Knoll	Jul 1 (Sun) Christ Lutheran Vail Church 14600 E Colossal Cave Rd		8:00 PM

Future Events

Member Events	
Jul 6 (Fri)	General Meeting
Jul 7 (Sat)	TIMPA Star Party
Jul 11 (Wed)	Board Meeting
Jul 12 (Thu)	AFSIG Meeting
Jul 13 (Fri)	TIMPA Star Party
Jul 13/14 (Fri/Sat)	CAC Star Party
Jul 19 (Thu)	Ladies Night Out
Outreach Events	
Jul 13 (Fri)	Elfrida Library
Jul 14 (Sat)	Sonoran Desert Museum

TAAA Outreach Events

Members are asked to support these outreach events. Details and maps can be obtained by logging into your Member Planet account. Sign up at a meeting, respond to Jim Knoll's email requests, or pick up the phone. Signing up is important so you can be contacted in case of cancellation. Contact Jim at school-sp-volunteers@tucsonastronomy.org or 520-241-3113. If interested in being an Astronomy Guide and presenting projects from the Night Sky Network Outreach Toolkits, contact Terri Lappin at smsig@tucsonastronomy.org.

Elfrida Library Star Party

Jun 15 (Fri)

Elfrida

Leader: Jim Knoll

Cross Streets: Gleeson/Hwy 191

I-10 or Dragoon Road to Hwy 191. South to Gleeson Road (south of 181). From Gleeson & Hwy 191, go south 1/2 mile. Turn right just past the Health Clinic and then turn a hard left and go around behind the community center. The Library is located there. Setup outside the Library. **No more volunteers are needed for this event.**

Desert Homeschool Star Party @ Whitetail Campground

Jun 29 (Fri)

NE Tucson

Leader: Jim Knoll

Cross Streets: Mt Lemmon Hwy/Whitetail

The Desert Homeschool is having a star party for about 45 people at Whitetail Campground. Take Mt Lemmon Highway to MP 21.5 and go left on Whitetail Rd to campground. Viewing is in the parking area. **Two volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

Sycamore Canyon HOA Star Party

Jun 30 (Sat)

SE Tucson (Vail)

Leader: Jim Knoll

Cross Streets: Sahuarita/Harrison

The Sycamore Canyon HOA is having a star party at Sycamore Canyon Park. Go south on Harrison from Sahuarita Rd, Harrison becomes Sycamore Leaf. Take the 5th right onto Rustling Leaf. The park is 1st & 2nd lefts. **Three volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

Vail Preservation Society Star Party

Jul 1 (Sat)

SE Tucson (Vail)

Leader: Jim Knoll

Cross Streets: Colossal Cave Rd/Mary Ann Cleveland Way

The Vail Preservation Society is having a star party at Christ Lutheran Vail Church. The church is located at 14600 E Colossal Cave Rd. **Three volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

Announcements

- The June **Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on June 13th at 6:30 PM in the UMC Cafeteria, Rm 2500F (1500 N Campbell Ave).
- The **28th Grand Canyon Star Party**, an outreach event shared between astronomers from around North America and the National Park Service at Grand Canyon National Park, will be June 9 through June 16, 2018. Early planning is advised. Please join us for one night, all eight nights, or anything in between. For details contact the South Rim GCSP Coordinator, TAAA member Jim O'Connor, at gcsp[at]tucsonastronomy.org or visit: <http://tucsonastronomy.org/upcoming-events/grand-canyon-star-party/>

Special Interest Group Activities

Astro-Imaging SIG (AISIG)

Meeting: TBD

Location: Total Wine & More (4370 N Oracle Rd)
Contact: Jim Heasley Phone: 520-268-8586
Email: astro-photo[at]tucsonastronomy.org

Interested in Astronomical Imaging? Come to the next AISIG Meeting. New and experienced Astrophotographers welcome!! There is no meeting for June because of the Grand Canyon Star Party and there is no meeting in July because of the monsoons.

Astronomy Fundamentals SIG (AFSIG)

Meeting: Jun 14 (Thu) 6:30 PM
U.S.G.S. Building, Room 253 (520 North Park Ave)
Contact: Connor Justice
Email: fundamentals[at]tucsonastronomy.org

Come join us for a presentation from the fundamentals of amateur astronomy. The Astronomy Fundamentals Special Interest Group is for all TAAA members who want to learn about and share the multiple aspects of the hobby. It is not just for beginners or new members, though, of course, it is one of the best ways to learn about the club and hobby. Please come and share in the fun, whether to learn something new or share some hard won knowledge.

The AFSIG meets the second Thursday of each month in the USGS Building located on the NE corner of Park and 6th Street. The meeting room is on the second floor. After 5pm, free parking can be found across 6th Street. Go south onto Park at 6th St. The parking lot is behind The China Pasta House accessible by an alley way. A fee is charged to use the parking garage to the east. An elevator is available on request.



Starry Messengers SIG
Opening Minds to the Universe

Next Meeting: Sep 17 (Mon) 6:30PM

Location: Beyond Bread

Contact: Terri Lappin
Phone: 520-977-1290

Email: smsig[at]tucsonastronomy.org

Starry Messengers SIG will support the following outreach events this summer. We'd love to have the help of any TAAA member interested in outreach. Our next meeting is September 17.

July 14: Summer Science Saturday (LPL)

Since 1986

Stellar - Vision Astronomy Shop

3721 E. 37th Street
Tucson, AZ 85713
(520) 571-0877
Credit Cards Accepted

www.stellarvisiontucson.com

Member Star Parties

The TIMPA observing site is located a few miles beyond the Desert Museum. The CAC observing site is located in southeast Arizona near Sunsites, AZ, about 1.5 hours drive from Tucson. Maps to both sites can be found on the TAAA website. Locked gates protect both sites. Call or email the contact person to learn when the gate will be unlocked.

Chiricahua Astronomy Complex Site

Jun 15/16 (Fri/Sat)

Contact Person/RSVP to: Mike McDowell
Email: cac-director[at]tucsonastronomy.org
Phone: 206-356-6624

Chiricahua Astronomy Complex (CAC) is the club's dark observing site, located in Cochise County approximately 100 miles southeast of the center of Tucson. The site includes concrete telescope pads with electricity, a roll-off roof observatory with a Celestron 14" telescope, a picnic Ramada, and a full bathroom facility with shower room. The new Reynolds-Mitchell Observatory includes a 40" telescope and a large warm room. At an elevation of 4800 feet, be prepared for cooler temperatures. Try to arrive before sunset. Our use permit limits the number of attendees at any one time, so reservations and cancellations are required. If you would like to attend, you must contact CAC Director John Kalas.

TIMPA Site

Jun 9 & 15 (Sat & Fri)

Contact Person: Connor Justice
Email: fundamentals[at]tucsonastronomy.org, elliot.c.justice[at]gmail.com

The AFSIG hosts the TIMPA star parties. An AFSIG representative will open the gate for an evening of viewing. The Gila Monster Observatory with its Meade 14" Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope will be open for your viewing pleasure. The TIMPA site features a large parking area and full restroom facilities. Be prepared for cool temperatures after sunset. Guests are welcome, accompanied by a TAAA member. We hope to see you there!

TAAA Ladies Night Out

Thursday, June 21

Great Conversation! 6:30 pm Delicious Food!

Jun Dynasty

2933 E Grant Rd

(NW corner of Grant and Country Club)

Preview the menu at jundynasty.com

RSVP Susan
cyzeh@aol.com